GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3049
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2017
More Power to PRIs
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Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

a) whether the Government proposes to provide more powers and financial assistance to the Panchayats so that they can work in a better way;
b) if so, the details thereof; and
c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) to (c) : 'Panchayats' being 'Local Bodies' is a State subject mandated under Part IX and List II (State List) of Seventh Schedule (Article 246) of the Constitution of India. Article 243G of Part IX of the Constitution allows discretion to State Legislature to endow, to the three-tier Panchayats with such powers and authority, including in areas listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution, to enable them to function as institutions of local self-governance to prepare plans and implement schemes for economic development and social justice. There is variation amongst states, in the extent of devolution of powers to Panchayats. Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has been continuously persuaded the State Governments to devolve powers to Panchayats, and also provides assistance to the States / UTs for capacity building of Panchayats to enable them to perform the devolved functions effectively and efficiently.
Under the Fourteenth Finance Commission award, substantial grants to the tune of Rs. 2,00,292.20 crore have been allocated for the period from 2015 to 2020, to Gram Panchayats for delivery of basic services. The amount allocated for the Fourteenth Finance Commission is more than threefold to the grants of Rs. 65160.76 crore recommended by Thirteenth Finance Commission for the award period 2010-15 for all levels of PRIs. This devolution has created an opportunity for responsive local governance at the cutting edge of Gram Panchayats. Under the scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), MoPR has provided financial assistance to the States for strengthening of Panchayati Raj across the country by way of capacity building including trainings. During the last two years total funds of Rs 754.87 crores were released to States/UTs for capacity building of PRIs.

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